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Assembly California Legislature



NOREEN EVANS
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, SEVENTH DISTRICT

December 21, 2006

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Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has led a cooperative partnership among several agencies and non-profit partners, the community and a consultant team to develop a trails plan for protected lands in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. Now that the plan has been approved by the District's Board of Directors, I am writing to request the Coastal Conservancy's support in providing a grant to facilitate trail construction to begin the initial phase.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland complex in Sonoma County. Its aquatic, riparian and upland habitats include oak woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and vernal pools that support numerous plant and animal species. Public access to the Laguna, however, has been very limited. When fully implemented, the plan will provide 12 miles of trails, staging areas and overlooks. Interpretive signage will identify natural habitats, bird species, historic resources and the hydrology of the Laguna. Overlooks will offer the public expansive views of the Santa Rosa Plain and surrounding scenic landscape.

The trails plan implements recommendations of several regional conservation plans, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan and the District's acquisition plan, "Connecting Communities and the Land." This project furthers Conservancy goals to enhance public access by connecting to other trails and open space in the region, such as the regional Joe Rodota Trail and the Laguna Wetland Preserve. The trails plan also complements partnership efforts to preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna, for which the Conservancy's continued participation and funding support have been extremely valuable.

The initial phase of the plan includes construction of 2.4 miles of pedestrian and multi-use trails for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and wheelchair users, staging areas, and interpretive features. I encourage the Conservancy to support the District's grant request under the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program so the community can experience this amazing landscape and learn from it.

Very truly yours,

NOREEN EVANS
Assemblymember, 7th District

cc: ✓ Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, SCAPOSD
Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager, SCAPOSD

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COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.



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Assembly California Legislature



PATTY BERG
ASSEMBLY MEMBER, FIRST DISTRICT

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WINE

January 5, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail

Dear Chairman Bosco:

I am writing to express my support of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District request for up to \$500,000 to facilitate trail construction for protected lands in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The District has led a cooperative partnership among several agencies and non-profit partners, the community and a consultant team to develop a trails plan recently approved by the District's Board of Directors.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland complex in Sonoma County. Its aquatic, riparian and upland habitats include oak woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and vernal pools that support numerous plant and animal species. Public access to the Laguna, however, has been limited. The plan, when fully implemented, will provide 12 miles of trails, staging areas and overlooks. Interpretive signage will identify natural habitats, bird species, historic resources and the hydrology of the Laguna. Overlooks will offer the public expansive views of the Santa Rosa Plain and surrounding scenic landscape.

The trails plan implements recommendations of several regional conservation plans, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan and the District's acquisition plan, "Connecting Communities and the Land." This project furthers Conservancy goals to enhance public access by connecting to other trails and open space in the region, such as the regional Joe Rodota Trail and the Laguna Wetland Preserve. The trails plan also complements partnership efforts to preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna, for which the Conservancy's continued participation and funding support have been extremely valuable.



The initial phase of the plan includes construction of 2.4 miles of pedestrian and multi-use trails for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and wheelchair users, staging areas, and interpretive features. I encourage the Conservancy to support the District's grant request under the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program so very soon, the public and future generations can experience this amazing landscape and learn from it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,



PATTY BERG

Assemblywoman, 1st District

cc: Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, SCAPOSD
Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager, SCAPOSD

California State Senate

STATE CAPITOL
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
(916) 651-4002

SENATOR
PATRICIA WIGGINS
SECOND SENATE DISTRICT



December 21, 2006

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail

Dear Mr. Bosco:

I write to urge the Coastal Conservancy to support the trail construction for the Laguna de Santa Rosa Protected Lands Trails Plan, recently approved by the District's Board of Directors, by providing a generous grant that will facilitate the initial phase of this important project. The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has led a cooperative partnership among several agencies, non-profits, the community and a team of consultants to develop a trails plan for protected lands in the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland complex in Sonoma County. The aquatic, riparian and upland habitats of the Laguna are biologically rich and diverse, and support a number of rare, threatened, and endangered plant and animal species. However, public access to the Laguna has been very limited. This plan, when fully implemented, will offer the public 12 miles of trails, staging areas and overlooks with interpretative signage that will assist in preserving our natural resources but also educate the public. In addition, the trails plan implements recommendations of several regional conservation plans, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan and the District's acquisition plan.

Undoubtedly, this project furthers Conservancy goals to enhance public access by connecting to other trails and open space in the region and complements partnership efforts to preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna.

The Conservancy's continued participation and funding support have been extremely valuable, which is why I strongly encourage the conservancy to support the District's grant request under the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program. This grant will make possible for the public and future generations to experience and appreciate our rich and natural beauty.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Wiggins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pat" and last name "Wiggins" clearly distinguishable.

PATRICIA WIGGINS
Senator, 2nd District

Cc: Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, SCAPOSD
Maria J. Cipriani, Assitant General Manager, SCAPOSD

PW:jr

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JAN 04 2007

**COASTAL CONSERVANCY
OAKLAND, CALIF.**

Planning Department

714 Johnson Street

Sebastopol, CA 95472

Phone (707) 823-6167

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Website: www.ci.sebastopol.ca.usE-mail: kplan@sonic.net

Kenyon Webster, Planning Director



January 9, 2007

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has led a cooperative partnership among several agencies and non-profit partners, the community and a consultant team to develop a trails plan for protected lands in the Laguna de Santa Rosa. The City of Sebastopol has participated in this effort.

The planned trails in this phase of the project will connect to Sebastopol's Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Preserve, including the 'loop trail' that was funded by the Conservancy. The opportunity to expand Laguna trails and restoration is extraordinary, and our City looks forward to working with the District in implementing the trails plan. I am writing you to request the Coastal Conservancy's support to provide a grant to facilitate trail construction for the initial phase of this exciting plan.

The Laguna de Santa Rosa is the largest freshwater wetland complex in Sonoma County. Its aquatic, riparian and upland habitats include oak woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and vernal pools that support numerous plant and animal species. Public access to the Laguna, however, has been very limited. The plan, when fully implemented, will provide 12 miles of trails, staging areas and overlooks. Interpretive signage will identify natural habitats, bird species, historic resources and the hydrology of the Laguna. Overlooks will offer the public expansive views of the Santa Rosa Plain and surrounding scenic landscape.

The trails plan implements recommendations of several regional conservation plans, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan and the District's acquisition plan, "Connecting Communities and the Land." This project furthers Conservancy goals to enhance public access by connecting to other trails and open space in the region, such as the regional Joe Rodota Trail and the Laguna Wetland Preserve. The trails plan also complements partnership efforts to preserve, restore and

enhance the Laguna, for which the Conservancy's continued participation and funding support have been extremely valuable.

The initial phase of the plan includes construction of 2.4 miles of pedestrian and multi-use trails for hikers, bicyclists, equestrians, and wheelchair users, staging areas, and interpretive features. I encourage the Conservancy to support the District's grant request under the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program so very soon, the public and future generations can experience this complex and beautiful landscape, and learn from it.

Sincerely,



Kenyon Webster, Planning Director

cc: Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, SCAPOSD
Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager, SCAPOSD



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December 15, 2006

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Hon. Doug Bosco, Chairman
California State Coastal Conservancy Board of Directors
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

RE: Laguna Protected Properties Trails Plan

Dear Chairman Bosco and members of the California State Coastal Conservancy Board:

The Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation strongly supports the application of the Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District for funding of the first phase of the Laguna Protected Properties Trails Plan.

As an organization dedicated to the restoration, stewardship and celebration of the Laguna, we feel that it is of paramount importance that the public be provided opportunities to experience its unique wonders and beauty. The Laguna is Sonoma County's richest wildlife area and one of the most biologically diverse areas in Northern California, and we believe that its conservation and appropriate management can only be accomplished through the development of the public embrace that access will promote. Given that our county has one of the lowest percentages of publicly accessible lands of all counties in California, this initiative will create welcome opportunities for our residents and visitors to enjoy one of the greatest treasures of our area.

The Foundation will continue to work in partnership with the District to ensure that implementation of the plan is conducted, as intended, in a manner sensitive to the concerns of wildlife, adjacent landowners and the many public and private stakeholders of the Laguna. We appreciate the State Coastal Conservancy's ongoing partnership with the Laguna Foundation and the District to preserve, enhance, and enable public enjoyment of the Laguna.

Please contact me at your convenience if there are questions regarding the Laguna Foundation's position in this matter. We appreciate the Conservancy's consideration of our opinion in your deliberations on this very positive and appropriate project.

Very truly yours,

Dan Schurman
Executive Director

CC: Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager,
Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District

Douglas Bosco, Chairman
California Coastal Conservancy
1330 Broadway, 13th Floor
Oakland, CA 94612

Re: Laguna de Santa Rosa Wetlands Trail

Dear Mr. Bosco:

The Sonoma County Agricultural Preservation and Open Space District has led a cooperative partnership among several agencies and non-profit partners including LandPaths, the community and a consultant team to develop a trails plan for protected lands in the extraordinary wetland in Sonoma County known as the *Laguna de Santa Rosa*. I am writing you to request that the State Coastal Conservancy consider a generous grant to facilitate trail construction for the initial phase of this exciting plan.

As a Sonoma County resident you know that the Laguna de Santa Rosa is perhaps the largest freshwater wetland complex in the North Bay – certainly in the County. Its aquatic, riparian and upland habitats include oak woodlands, grasslands, wetlands and vernal pools that support numerous plant and animal species. Public access to the Laguna, however, has been very limited – owing to both limited historic public ownership and the difficulties involved in accessing a flooded landscape. It has been, thus, a landscape few had interest in and even fewer could navigate through. The plan noted above, when fully implemented, will provide 12 miles of trails, staging areas and overlooks. Interpretive signage will identify natural habitats, bird species, historic resources and the hydrology of the Laguna. Overlooks will offer the public expansive views of the Santa Rosa Plain and surrounding scenic landscape.

The trails plan implements recommendations of several regional conservation plans, including the Laguna de Santa Rosa Resource Atlas and Protection Plan and the District's acquisition plan, "Connecting Communities and the Land." This project furthers Conservancy goals to enhance public access by connecting to other trails and open space in the region, such as the regional Joe Rodota Trail and the Laguna Wetland Preserve. The trails plan also complements partnership efforts to preserve, restore and enhance the Laguna, for which the Conservancy's continued participation and funding support have been extremely valuable. LandPaths, as a nonprofit partner to the Open Space District, was honored to serve on the Technical Advisory Committee and speak to the importance of balancing natural resource protection with the public's necessity to engage with - and be inspired - by this local gem.

I encourage the Conservancy to support the District's grant request under the San Francisco Bay Conservancy Program so very soon, the public and future generations can experience this amazing landscape and learn from it.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Anderson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Craig Anderson
Executive Director

cc: Maxene Spellman, Project Manager
Andrea Mackenzie, General Manager, SCAPOSD
Maria J. Cipriani, Assistant General Manager, SCAPOSD